

Borough of Yeovil



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER 1972

B O R O U G H O F Y E O V I L

MAYOR

Alderman Mrs. H.C. Brown

DEPUTY MAYOR


Alderman Mrs. I. Seed

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman L.E. Hole.	Chairman.
Councillor P.W. Hillard.	Vice Chairman.
The Mayor.	
Alderman F.L. Moon.	
Councillor J.E. Browne.	
Councillor S.C. Harding.	
Councillor K. Grant.	
Councillor L.J.A. Deacon.	

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.	P. Power Fox, M.B., Ch.B., DPH.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health Assistant County Medical Officer.	M.I. Ross, M.B., Ch.B., DPH.
Chief Public Health Inspector.	D.F. Anthony, M.A.P.H.I.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector.	P. Warren-Tibbetts, M.A.P.H.I.
First Additional Public Health Inspector.	W.A. Barr, M.A.P.H.I.
Technical Assistant.	C. Male.
Pest Officer.	M. New. until 19th May, 1972. F. Bevis. from 17th July, 1972.



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TO THE
MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
YEovil BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1972.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The total number of live births during the year was 405, compared with 443 for the previous year. The Standardised Birth Rate was 15.8, as compared with 18.2 for the previous year. The Rate for England and Wales was 14.8.

DEATHS

The number of deaths of infants under the age of one year was 7, as compared with 3 for the previous year. The Infant Mortality Rate (i.e., deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) was 17, as compared with 7 the previous year. The Rate for England and Wales was 17. The Perinatal Mortality Rate was 24, as compared with 13 the previous year, and England and Wales - 22.

Of the total deaths of all ages, namely 334, 153 occurred in people aged 75 years and over.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 21, as compared with 92 the previous year. The decrease was mainly accounted for by the decrease in the number of cases of Measles notified, 17 in 1972, compared with 83 in 1971.

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On going through some old records, copies of previous Annual Reports were "discovered", the earliest being that of Dr. H. Page, Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1904, which was apparently the 32nd Report presented to the Authority, and I thought the following extracts might be of some interest, as showing the circumstances of Yeovil at that time.

Vital Statistics (1904)

England & Wales

Death Rate	...	...	14.48	16.2
Infantile Mortality	133.7	146
		(per 1,000 births registered)		

Cancer Mortality	1.3	
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(This rate was considered high and it was suggested by the Medical Officer of Health that there should be a conference of M.O.'s in the County with a view to future systematic investigation, the Somerset cancer rate being the highest in the Kingdom.)

Infectious Diseases (1904)

Scarlet Fever	...	..	...	99
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				103 (in 69 houses)

Isolation Hospital

This was erected in 1893 at a cost of about £400, and consisted of two four bedded wards. In 1903 a laundry, ambulance and mortuary block was added at a cost of £142, making a total cost of the hospital £542. The number of beds was later increased to 14 and then again to 18 beds, and 6 beds were earmarked for Smallpox cases.

Housing

The Medical Officer of Health pointed out the difficulty of radical improvements or alterations as being almost impracticable and prohibitive on account of the unreasonable financial and other difficulties created for the sanitary authorities, and the cumbrous machinery of the law respecting such "property", which thus continued indefinitely to seriously affect the public health.

Water Supply

The Borough was to be congratulated that it commenced to take steps to provide its own public water supply in 1872, with supplementary works in 1898, and secured an additional source of supply at Stockwood in 1904. Briefly, the supply was derived from four springs, at three different points - Stockwood being about three miles from the other sources - at Melbury, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town. This was derived from uplands on the Oolite and Lias rocks. The four springs were remote from habitations, and were, quoting from the report, as follows:-

(1) "Spring Pond", 500 ft. above O.D., into which two springs flow directly. The pond is open, has rising ground on two sides, and is surrounded by vegetation and trees. This openness constitutes a risk, at least of vegetable pollution.

(2) "Tunnel Spring", from rocks pierced by the railway tunnel, about half a mile from Spring Pond.

(3) "Haydon Wood" Spring. Piped almost direct as it flows from the rock. These three springs, and the Pond, yield a supply equal to about 28 gallons per head of the population. About to be connected with the town is:-

(4) "Stockwood" Spring, situated about three miles from Spring Pond. This spring is the most copious, and is also piped immediately on issuing from the rock.

The total yield of the springs will, it is estimated, equal to about 45 gallons per head of the population. The water before passing into the main is filtered through sand to remove particles in suspension. From Melbury it reaches, by gravitation, two covered Service Reservoirs of 1,368,000 gallons capacity, on the top of Summerhouse Hill, near, and at an elevation of 275 ft. above the town. The chemical composition of the water of the several springs and ponds differ slightly, but the mean of analyses gives the following, which may be taken to represent the average composition of the water supply of Yeovil.

Mean of Analyses of the Sources of the Water Supply

<u>Grains per Gallon</u>				<u>Parts Per Million</u>			
Solids	Cl.	T.Hdns.	T.Hdns.	Alk. as Free CaCO ₃	NH. ₃	Alb. NH. ₃	O.in Moist Combustion
16.2	1.6	18.9	6.6	11.2	.032	.104	2.0

Excrement Disposal

Dr. Page congratulated the Borough that excrement disposal was effected mainly by water carriage, though the flushing, in the majority of cases, was by hand. Cisterns were required for new buildings.

Disposal of House Refuse

House Refuse was regularly removed by public scavenging twice a week from every street and was disposed of by controlled tipping.

Disposal of Sewage

The Sewage Works opened in November 1903 and cost about £32,000 and consisted of five covered "septic" tanks, with a capacity of about 690,000 gallons, and two sets of 12 filters each for intermittent downward filtration alone, having a total area of 10,670 square yards.

Institutions affecting the Public Health

1. The Union Workhouse - erected 1837. Guardians 60. Provided for 39 parishes and Yeovil (Urban). Accommodation for about 180.
2. The Yeovil & District Hospital - established 1858. Had 20 beds and an Out-patient Department.
3. Infants' Home. Licenced under the Infant Life Protection Act, opened in 1897. From visitations and careful enquiries it appeared to be satisfactorily conducted.

In 1905 reference was made to the outbreak of smallpox which occurred between July 1871 and May 1872, in which no less than 89 deaths occurred, of which 31 were recorded as being un-vaccinated. Since that date and the year 1905 only 4 cases of this disease had been imported into the Community, and no deaths since 1872 had taken place. Also 194 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified that year.

Reference was also made in the 1905 report to the completion of work in connection with a new water supply to the town, which brought the public supply up to 45 gallons per head per day, costing about £10,000.

Diphtheria - previous to 1905 the Borough had practically an immunity from diphtheria for 30 years. It was a difficult disease to eradicate from a populous place, especially with an industrial community having much intercourse with an extensive surrounding area.

Medical inspection of the children of the Public Elementary Schools under the Education Act, 1907, commenced June 1st, 1908.

1908

In the report for the year 1908 reference was made to the yearly reduction in Infant Mortality by the work of Lady Health Missioners or Lady Health Visitors, and the suggestion was made for the formation of a voluntary ladies' "Health Visiting Association", and Dr. Page went on to say "the work of such an Association by friendly visitation, (especially shortly after child-birth), kindly proffered advice and instruction, and the exercise of innate womanly sympathy and tact, which is seldom unwelcomed, leading to a real interest of the visitor in the welfare of the home, would be eminently calculated to promote the desired object."

In the same report reference is made to the value of a trained School Nurse, whose work was already beginning to tell beneficially upon the schools. In the same year the provision of fireguards in homes where there were children ^{under} seven years of age was made compulsory.

1914

Dr. A. Remmett Weaver was the Medical Officer of Health at this time and in his report he commented "The outbreak of the war created conditions throughout the country which have had, or may have, important effects upon public health. Up to the end of the year no soldiers had been billeted in the district, but some 700 men left the Borough to join His Majesty's Forces. To the national call for assistance in housing and supporting the refugees from Belgium the Borough responded early and liberally. Between October 12th and December 31st, no less than 185 refugees were received by the Local Committee. Of these 83 have been distributed to surrounding districts, 37 have returned to Belgium, London, or other parts of the country, and 65 were housed in the Borough at the end of the year. Owing to the precautions taken no infectious disease has been conveyed to the inhabitants of Yeovil."

1915

Dr. Remmett Weaver mentioned the fact in his annual report that 300 soldiers of the Army Service Corps were billeted in Yeovil from 14th January to 22nd April and from the 6th February to 27th April 1,100 Territorials of the South Western Infantry Brigade were billeted. Between 12th October and 31st December, 1914, 185 refugees were received by the Local Committee and provided for.

During this period there was an epidemic of Measles and German Measles, and three children between the ages of one and five years died during this epidemic. It was vaguely hinted that the cause of this was infection brought in by children coming from a military area and attending school. 652 visits were made by the Medical Officer of Health and nurses during this outbreak.

The highest death rate since 1909 (12.9 per 1,000 persons of all ages) was recorded in 1915, and it was noticed that the death rate throughout the country was exceptionally high that year, suggesting that general weather or social conditions was the cause and not adverse local conditions. There were 7 deaths by suicide (3 by hanging, 3 by drowning and 1 by rifle bullet), and it was suggested that the stress of war had an influence upon the number of suicides. Adverse weather conditions accounted for the increased number of deaths of old people.

1918

The following reference to Venereal Diseases was made in the Annual Report for this year, by Dr. Weaver, Medical Officer of Health:-

"Under the auspices of the Somerset Anti-Venereal Diseases Council, a series of educational lectures for mothers, young women, men and school teachers were held in the autumn. These lectures, particularly the one for men given by Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D., F.R.C.P., were well attended. A second series for the school teachers of Yeovil and the surrounding towns and districts has been given during the present spring. The Early Treatment Centre at the Yeovil and District Hospital is open for free, private advice and treatment on Tuesday afternoons at 3 for women and on Friday afternoons at 3 for men."

Reference was made to the pandemic of Influenza as it affected Yeovil. Whole families were almost simultaneously attacked, and great difficulty was experienced in getting assistance for them. Help from relatives and friends was not forthcoming as nearly every home was affected. The District Nurse developed Influenza and died. The strain upon the local doctors was excessive, particularly as one was away on military service and another was laid up with the prevailing disease for more than a week. The total number of deaths due to Influenza was 81 actually occurring in Yeovil. The primary focus of the epidemic appeared to be in the Pen Mill district.

1920

Dr. C. W. Gee, Medical Officer of Health, in his Annual Report for 1920 commented on the water supply, stating that it was insufficient during dry periods for the needs of the inhabitants of Yeovil and the area of supply, which included Yeovil Without and other parishes. A new surface reservoir was being constructed on the top of Hendford Hill, with a capacity of 750,000 gallons, which will be supplied from the spring at Stockwood. This would help to alleviate the great difficulty of dry weather shortage.

1922

reservoir

Dr. Gee reported that the new surface/was completed on the top of Hendford Hill, and the Council had also secured power to provide a further water supply, proposed to be obtained by sinking a well into the greensand in the parish of Cattistock, in the County of Dorset. The daily additional supply from this source is estimated at 500,000 gallons.

1924

In this report reference is made to the housing shortage and the resultant over-crowding, causing working^{class} houses to be occupied by two or more families. Despite this, the death rate was agreeably low, 10.8 (England and Wales, 12.2), and Infantile Mortality 77.7 (England and Wales, 75).

1925

The Maternity Home was opened on May 27th, 1925, by Dr. G. W. Savage, County Medical Officer of Health.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

This service was initiated in 1908, as a direct result of the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act. In the first Annual Report, 1908 (Dr. Page) mention was made of

(1) Schools

Huish Boys	year 1845	Accommodation . . .	319
Hendford (Infants & Girls)	year 1862	" . . .	453
Reckleford (Infts. & Mixed)	year 1876	" . . .	517
Pen Mill (Infts. & Mixed)	year 1894	" . . .	343
Huish (New)(Infts. & Girls)	year 1905		

The permitted number of pupils was based on floor space, 10 sq.ft./pupil.

(2) Medical Inspection

The number of pupils examined was 528 boys and 469 girls, of whom 19 boys and 146 girls were found to have verminous heads. Dr. Page commented that "this condition is regarded frequently not as any reflection on cleanliness nor any cause for surprise or regret but as a natural coincident of ordinary childhood, particularly of girlhood". Dr. Page also commented on the number of children, 30% with bad teeth, the decayed teeth per child varying from 5 to as many as half those present, children with only 3 decayed teeth were classified as good.

Dr. Page also regretted "how rapidly fewer the number of either sex remaining at school becomes after the 13th year of age. "

In the report for the year 1910, Dr. Page placed on record "the indebtedness of the Borough to Henry Stiby, Esq., (Mayor, 1904 - 05), as a member of the Education Committee, in providing for the gratuitous professional dental treatment of all 'necessitous' children suffering from defective dentition. " During the 13 months the scheme had been in operation the total number of children for whom treatment had been arranged was 854, of which 86.4% received treatment, the remaining 14.6% defaulting.

In the Annual Report, 1911, Dr. Page reported that arrangements had been made for a Dr. Bendle to carry out examination of children with defective vision and to prescribe glasses where necessary. Dr. Page ascertained the cost of the spectacles and this was notified to the parents. When the cost of the spectacles was paid to the Head Teacher the spectacles were ordered, if desired the parents could pay by instalments of not less than 6d. per week. Dr. Page gave a brief summary of the financial aspects of the year's work.

Dr. Bendle's Fees . . . . .	..	£46. 15s. 5d.
79 pairs of spectacles . . . . .	...	£15. 1s. 4d.
Repayment of spectacles . . . . .	...	£9. 12s. 0d.
Total Cost . . . . .	...	£52. 4s. 9d.

Mention is also made that "Mr. Stiby is so satisfied with the excellent results (dental) attained that he has most generously consented to defray the costs for this year (1911), the third successive year. " Tuberculosis is listed for the first time and the incidence is shown in the following table:-

	<u>1908</u>	<u>1909</u>	<u>1910</u>	<u>1911</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lungs "delicate"	14	138	75	212	439
Tuberculosis definite	10	5	19	19	53
Totals	24	143	94	231	492

A School Care Committee was inaugurated to help "truly necessitous conditions of some of the school cases found on medical inspections." The subjoined summary shows part of the work of the School Care Committee.

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Distributed</u>
Articles of Clothing ...	56	66 (10 from previous year)
Boots, Old ...	20	12
Boots, New ...	15	11
	<hr/> 91	<hr/> 89

The report for the year 1912 was presented by Dr. T. A. Rose. Amongst other items it was reported that 58 boys and 11 girls were taught swimming and passed the test of swimming twice the breadth of the bath, which was 28 ft. broad. It was noted that parents responded to medical advice and have their children treated - ordinary cases - 100%, Dental Treatment - 50%, defective vision - 50%. Examination of 906 school children showed that 451 had had Measles, 284 Whooping Cough, 155 Chicken Pox, 52 Scarletina and 22 Diphtheria. Amongst the defects found in the 906 school children were, defective clothing and footwear - 46, malnutrition - 22, defective teeth - 477, delicate lungs - 123, these include Asthma and Bronchitis, Tuberculosis - 5. The total number of defects found was 1,097.

As in previous years, Mr. Stiby defrayed the cost of dental treatment for necessitous children.

In the report for 1937, (Dr. Gee), first mention is made of a Juvenile Employment Committee, comprising 17 members, and a Part-time Juvenile Officer was employed. Employment was found for 133 boys and 148 girls. The Annual Report for 1939 makes mention of "Evacuees", when 1,120 children, officially and unofficially evacuated, were received into the Borough, in September, 1939.

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In 1946 I was appointed Medical Officer of Health to the Chard Borough, Crewkerne and Langport Rural Districts, Medical Officer at South Petherton Hospital, Assistant Medical Officer to Somerset County Council and also temporary Medical Officer of Health to Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District Councils. Subsequently, in 1947 I was appointed Medical Officer of Health to Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District, Medical Officer to South Petherton Hospital, Assistant Medical Officer to Somerset County Council and temporary Medical Officer of Health to Chard Borough, Crewkerne and Langport Rural Districts, pending the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health to these authorities. To a certain degree, therefore, I anticipated the formation of the new District Authority, particularly as in 1961 I also became Medical Officer of Health to Wincanton Rural District Council.

During this period I have presented 26 Annual Reports to Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District Councils. There are certain items in my reports which I think might be of interest to present members, viz.,

Housing

This has always been a problem, varying in degree of shortage of accommodation. In 1948 the number of applicants on the housing list was 1,000, of whom 350 were families with children, living in rooms. The number of applicants as at 31st December, 1972, was 636.

Home Help Service

The Home Help Service was initiated in the Yeovil Borough in 1947, but owing to the difficulty in recruitment the help of the W.V.S. was sought in July, 1948. In the following twelve months Home Helps were provided for 71 maternity cases, 39 other cases and were in attendance on 47 long term cases, i.e. chronic sick. As from October, 1949, the Home Help Service was organised by a full time Organiser working in co-operation with the W.V.S. and since then the Home Help Service has proved most valuable. It is anticipated that in future years these services will still be an essential part of Community life.

Blood Examination (pregnant women)

The blood examination of pregnant women, with particular reference to the Rhesus factor, was commenced in October, 1948, 83 patients being examined in that particular year. This service was conducted at the Public Health Department, Preston Road, Yeovil, and patients attended both from Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District. Following the appointment of a second Obstetrician/Gynaecologist for Yeovil Hospital, the service was transferred to Yeovil Hospital in July, 1967, when a total of 10,623 blood examinations had been carried out at the Clinic at the Public Health Department. So far as I am aware, Yeovil was the first Authority in Somerset, and one of the earliest in England and Wales, to initiate this most valuable service.

Care of the Aged

In my Annual Report for 1958, I advocated the appointment of a Consultant Geriatrician, since I did not consider that the medical care authorized by the Regional Hospital Board, i.e. four sessions per week for a hospital of 100 beds, was adequate. Summerlands Hospital was built in 1837 following the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1834. In 1929 the administration by the Board of Guardians became the responsibility of the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council, and again, in 1948 responsibility was changed to the Regional Hospital Board. Despite the "face lifting" operation and improved amenities, etc., carried out by the Board, fundamentally the structure of the hospital remained unchanged, but despite the innate inadequacies a surprisingly high standard of care of the patients was achieved by the staff and reflected great credit on all concerned. Commencing in 1967, the old wards were replaced and Christmas, 1968, saw the patients settled in three new wards. In 1970 a fourth ward was completed, bringing the total number of hospital beds to 115. In the same year, Dr. P. R. Butler was appointed Consultant Geriatrician to the hospital.

Fluoridation

The importance of fluoridation of public water supplies, i.e. correcting a defect in the water supply, was recognized by the Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District Councils as far back as 1956 and in that year the two authorities agreed that, subject to the Ministry of Health providing the necessary equipment, fluoridation of the water supply should be initiated in both authorities. Unfortunately, due to the multiplicity of the public water supplies, the necessary equipment could not be supplied and the scheme had to be abandoned. Recently it was stated that local authorities responsible for two thirds of the population in the country had decided in favour of fluoridation, yet only 10 of the existing 230 water systems are fluoridated. Reference to the need for fluoridation was made in my Annual Reports for the years 1956, 1957, 1958, 1963 and 1966, but the following statistics taken from the magazine "You and Your Health", November, 1973, supply ample evidence of the need for fluoridation and all other possible means of improving dental care.

"The decaying teeth of Britain

99% of children under 12 have decayed teeth.

4,000,000 have teeth extracted every year.

1 in every 5 children aged 5 will probably be wearing dentures before 20 years of age.

Over half of our population over 45 have no teeth.

98% of British children probably have gum disease.

Half of Britain's manual workers are toothless.

The health service spends £100,000,000 a year treating tooth troubles - more than on any other disease, except mental disorders.

If you are over 16 and have a complete set of sound teeth, you are a freak, literally one in a thousand" .

Deafness in School Children

In 1949 hearing surveys to determine deafness in school children were initiated in the Yeovil Borough and Yeovil Rural District. The surveys were carried out by means of a gramophone audiometer, which permitted group testing of school children, as opposed to individual tests. The number of tests, including retests, that were carried out in a complete school year, i.e. 1950, was 2,102, and 386 children were found with hearing defects. Yeovil was the first school divisional area to be authorized to purchase gramophone audiometers and this was due to the repeated pressure of the Divisional Education Committee on the Somerset Education Committee. Due to the success of the scheme in Yeovil, as shown in a special report by Dr. M. I. Ross, the scheme was extended to the entire County, but in the intervening years it has been considerably modified and improved.

Yeovil Day Centre

In my Annual Report for the year 1970, I reported fully on the Yeovil Day Centre, and I am indebted to the Treasurer, Mr. Tilzey, Day Centre Committee, for the following figures:-

No. of meals supplied in 1972 within the Centre to members of the Club	...	11,304
Total membership of the Club as at the end of 1972	...	1,300 (approx.)
Total number of Meals on Wheels supplied in the Yeovil Borough during 1972	...	10,471
Total number of Meals on Wheels supplied in the Yeovil Rural District during 1972		7,463

No. of meals served during the first year the Club
was opened in 1969

(a)	in the Club itself to members	...	8,024
(b)	Meals on Wheels	...	3,137

These statistics, although extremely satisfactory, are I think the bare bones, and in a report by Miss C. Campbell, she draws attention to the activities undertaken by the members of the Club, i.e. Whist Drives, weekly film and slide shows, musical sessions, outings, Bring and Buy Sales, exhibitions and sale of paintings done by members, etc. The Day Centre is a great asset to the town, particularly for that section of the population known as "senior citizens" .

It is difficult to forecast the future. The Medical Officer of Health post ceases to exist as from the 31st March, 1974. So far as I can ascertain the Medical Officer of Health will be replaced by a "proper officer", and it is expected that such an officer will be a "Community Physician", recruited from the Health Services. The scope of his activities in respect of Local Government at the time of this report appears to be nebulous, other than he will have some duties in respect of environmental health. At a recent meeting of Medical Officers of Health held at Paignton there was puzzlement as to why the post of Medical Officer of Health had been abolished, and belief that at some future date the post of Medical Officer of Health, possibly under another title, would be re-established.

Since this is my final report, it is right that I should place on record the loyal service I have received from my staff, in particular, Mrs. B. Jones, who since 1954 has acted as my Secretary in all matters relating to public health. I also wish to acknowledge my gratitude to Dr. M. I. Ross, who is a member of the County medical staff, her duties in the Yeovil area in the main being connected with the school health service, and to a lesser extent with the Child Welfare Clinics. It would be difficult to over estimate the value of her services, particularly with regard to physically and mentally handicapped children. By agreement with the County Council Dr. Ross has also acted as my deputy in respect of Medical Officer of Health duties, and I wish to express my appreciation of the help she has given me.

It is also my pleasure to record my appreciation of the help and co-operation I have received from my colleagues in general practice and on the staff of Yeovil District Hospital. This co-operation has reduced "red tape" to a minimum and has been of extreme value to me in carrying out my official duties.

When I was appointed Medical Officer of Health in 1946 I expected to move to another post in another two to three years, but circumstances, i.e. the people and countryside, conspired together and resulted in this report being my 26th, and I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the continued kindness and consideration I have received from all Committees, particularly the Public Health Committee. and Council members in the past 27 years.

Again, as in the past, I would like to thank members of the Public Health staff for the help and co-operation they have given me since my appointment.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,
P. POWER FOX
Medical Officer of Health.

Y E O V I L B O R O U G H

STATISTICS OF THE AREA FOR THE YEAR 1972

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	2,372
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£3,623,265
Estimated Produce of 1p. rate			...	...	£36,000
No. of inhabited houses		...	...	...	8,816
Population	...	...	...	...	25,960

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Borough of Yeovil comprises an area of 2,372 acres, and is situated at the extreme South of the County of Somerset, on the border of Dorset, in the midst of an agricultural area. The town is located on the Upper and Middle Liassic Formation: the sub-soil is chiefly clay, lying upon marlstone, with the Midford Sands at Hendford Hill.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply is derived from various sources, the majority being situated in Dorset. The sources of supply are as follows:- "Spring Pond" (two springs), Stockwood and the Cattistock source, which consists of four boreholes. All the water is chlorinated and frequent bacteriological analyses show the water to be satisfactory in quality. The present demand for the Borough is 1.6 million gallons per day (approximately 59 gallons per head per day), which necessitates the water supply from the above sources being supplemented with water derived from the Sutton Bingham Reservoir, plus a borehole from Thornford.

METEOROLOGY

The climate is mild and relaxing. There is little fog or mist.

RAINFALL

Total rainfall - Pen Mill - 29.34

OCCUPATION

One of the main industries of Yeovil is the manufacture of leather and includes all processes from the preparation of raw hides to the production of the finished article. This trade gives factory and home employment to a large number of both sexes. In addition to the leather industry, there is a thriving aircraft industry and other light engineering industries. There is also a large factory for the manufacture of preserved foods and dairy produce.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Hospital Services in the Borough are administered by the South Somerset Hospital Group Management Committee, under the general direction of the South Western Regional Hospital Board. Situated in the Borough are:-

- (1) Yeovil District Hospital - an acute general hospital
- (2) Maternity Unit - 50 beds
- (3) Summerlands Hospital - mainly used as a geriatric hospital

I am indebted to the Medical Records Officer for the following details for the year 1972.

				<u>Yeovil District Hospital</u>
No. of in-patient discharges	...	...		4,161
No. of new Consultant out-patients attending Clinics				8,268
New and Old Consultant Out-patients		...		33,046
Available Beds	...	...	...	92
Orthoptic Dept., attendances	...	...		1,550
Radiological Dept., units of work		...		43,739
Casualty Dept., attendances		...		12,195
				<u>Yeovil Hospital Maternity Unit</u>
Births in Hospital	...	...	...	1,239
Attendances at Midwives Clinics		...		3,672
Available Beds	...	...	...	44, plus 6 Special Care Unit beds

TUBERCULOSIS

A Chest Clinic is held on Mondays and Wednesdays at Yeovil Hospital. Patients requiring in-patient treatment are admitted to Sanatoria at Taunton.

LABORATORY SERVICE

A Laboratory is located at Yeovil Hospital. The Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory at Taunton, at which bacteriological examination of swab, sputum, blood and faeces is carried out. Bacteriological and chemical analyses for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents are also carried out.

HOUSING

I am indebted to the Housing Manager for the resume showing the number of council houses erected by the Corporation.

Houses, etc., completed during the year ended 31.12.72	...	111
Houses, etc. erected post-war	...	2,166
Houses, etc., sold post-war	...	185
Houses, etc., erected by the Local Authority and still owned by them	...	3,471
No. of applicants on the waiting list, as at 31.12.72	...	636

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

The statistics furnished by the Registrar General show the number of births and deaths after correction has been made for transfer to the normal place of residence of the individuals concerned. From these figures can be calculated the "crude" birth and death rates. As, however, the highest mortality occurs at the two extremes of life and industrial areas in general have a larger proportion of people living in the middle age periods of life, some correction must be made for the irregularities of distribution as regards age and sex, as otherwise the death rate will afford no accurate means of comparing the healthiness of one district with another. This comparability factor is furnished by the Registrar General, and applied to the "crude" birth or death rate, gives a standardised rate and enables comparison to be made with the rate for England and Wales, or with rates of other districts.

	Local Authority Area			England & Wales
	Males	Females	Total	
Estimated mid-year home population	-	-	25,960	49,028,900
<u>Live Births</u>				
Total	210	195	405	725,405
Legitimate	200	181	381	662,907
Illegitimate	10	14	24	62,498
<u>Stillbirths</u>				
Total	3	2	5	8,794
Legitimate	3	2	5	7,846
Illegitimate	-	-	-	948
<u>Total Live and Stillbirths</u>				
Total	213	197	410	734,199
Legitimate	203	183	386	670,753
Illegitimate	10	14	24	63,446
<u>Deaths of Infants Under 1 year of age</u>				
Total	5	2	7	12,494
Legitimate	4	2	6	11,177
Illegitimate	1	-	1	1,317
<u>Under 4 weeks of age</u>				
Total	5	1	6	8,373
Legitimate	4	1	5	7,503
Illegitimate	1	-	1	870
<u>Under 1 week of age</u>				
Total	4	1	5	7,142
Legitimate	4	1	5	6,365
Illegitimate	-	-	-	777

table continued

	Local Authority Area			England & Wales
	Males	Females	Total	
<u>Deaths, all ages</u>	176	158	334	591,907

LIVE BIRTH RATES, ETC.

	Local Authority Area	England & Wales
Livebirths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	15.6	14.8
Area comparability factor	1.01	1.00
Local Adjusted Rate	15.8	14.8
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.06	1.00
Illegitimate livebirths as percentage of all live births	6	9
<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>		
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	12	12
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>		
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	17	17
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	16	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	42	21
<u>Neonatal Mortality Rate</u>		
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	15	12
<u>Early Neonatal Mortality Rate</u>		
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	12	10
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>		
Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	24	22
<u>Death Rates, etc. All ages</u>		
Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	12.9	12.1
Area comparability factor	.90	1.00
Local Adjusted Rate	11.6	12.1
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	.96	1.00

BIRTH RATES

1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
15.6	15.4	15.3	15.9	14.6	15.8	15.5	15.1	18.2	15.8

DEATHS

The following table shows the causes of death, age and sex incidence, and it will be noticed that amongst the males, of the 176 deaths, 47 occurred amongst those between the ages of 65 and 75, and 61 over the age of 75. Of the females, out of the total of 158 deaths, 36 occurred between the ages of 65 and 75 and 92 over the age of 75.

		Total Under 4 weeks											
Sex		all	4	& under	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
		ages	weeks	1 year									
Malignant Neoplasm	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oesophagus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Stomach	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Intestine	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Larynx	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	4
Lung, Bronchus	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Breast	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm,	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Uterus													
Malignant Neoplasm,	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Prostate													
Leukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other malignant	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	2	1
neoplasms	F	16	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	2	8
Diabetes Mellitus	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Other endocrine, etc.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
diseases	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anaemias	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mental Disorders	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other diseases of	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
the nervous system	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chronic Rheumatic	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Heart Disease	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-
Hypertensive	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Disease	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart	M	54	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	16	14	19
Disease	F	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	9	15
Other forms of	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3
heart disease	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	7

table continued

	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	9
	F	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	26
Other diseases of circulatory syst.	M	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	5
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8
Influenza	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	M	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Asthma	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other diseases of the respiratory system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Intestinal Obstruc- tion and Hernia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other diseases of digestive system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other diseases of Genito-Urinary syst.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Diseases of Skin & subcutaneous tissue	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Congenital Anomalies	M	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, difficult labour, etc.	M	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other causes of perinatal mort.	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and ill- defined conditions	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Suicide and self- inflicted injuries	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total, all causes		M 176	5	-	-	-	4	1	5	8	45	47	61
		F 158	1	1	1	4	2	1	-	9	11	36	92

DEATH RATES

1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
11.8	11.6	11.0	11.2	10.2	10.2	10.1	12.0	10.8	11.6

CANCER

The number of deaths due to Cancer (all forms) was 69.
The table as set out below shows the incidence for previous years.

1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
51	76	60	56	36	45	66	76	62	69

CANCER DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Yeovil Borough	2.06	3.02	2.4	2.2	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.9	2.4	2.6
County of Somerset	2.17	2.31	2.2	2.23	2.28	2.33	2.38	2.46	2.4	2.4
England & Wales	2.1	2.21	2.23	2.24	2.27	2.31	2.35	2.39	2.39	2.42

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of children dying within the first twelve months of life was 7, as compared with 3 the previous year. The rate per 1,000 live births was 17, as compared with England and Wales - 17.

The following table shows the number of deaths and the Infant Mortality Rate, as compared with previous years.

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
No. of deaths	9	3	9	9	3	4	4	8	3	7
Rate per 1,000 live births in Yeovil Borough	23.3	7.7	23.2	22.2	8	10	11	22	7	17
Rate per 1,000 live births in England & Wales	22.3	20.0	19.0	18.9	18.3	18	18	18	18	17

CAUSES OF DEATH AND AGE

	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year
Congenital Anomalies	1	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	4	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	-	1

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the details of the infectious diseases notified during the year, and also the figures for the previous year.

	1972	1971
Measles	17	83
Scarlet Fever	-	4
Whooping Cough	-	3
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	1	-
Dysentery	-	2
Acute Meningitis	1	-
Infective Jaundice	2	-
Total	21	92

TUBERCULOSIS

	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
No. of cases notified Pulm.	-	-	5	1	2	3	6	6	5	5
No. of cases notified Non-pulm.	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	1	2	2
No. of deaths Pulm.	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
No. of deaths Non-pulm.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Death Rate resp. T.B. per 1,000 population	-	-	.03	-	-	-	.1	-	-	-

INFANT WELFARE

DENTAL TREATMENT

	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Pre-school children</u>
No. of cases inspected	26	200
No. found to require treatment	25	118
No. of cases treated	27	169
No. of attendances	71	302
Dentures provided	1	-

ACTIVITIES OF SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL NURSING STAFF BASED IN YEOVIL BOROUGH: YEAR 1972

Visits to children 0 - 5 years	5,993
Visits to over 65's	2,012
Other visits as Health Visitors	1,660
Ante-natal visits as Midwives	1,313
Visits as Midwives during ppm.	1,529
General Nursing Visits (incl. miscarriages)	11,550

CHILD HEALTH CLINICS

Preston Road Clinic

Total No. of children attending	483
Total No. of children attending for the 1st time	209
Total No. of attendances made	2,108

Larkhill Clinic

Total No. of children attending	118
Total No. of children attending for the 1st time ...	40
Total No. of attendances made	568

Monmouth Hall

Total No. of children attending	382
Total No. of children attending for the 1st time ...	169
Total No. of attendances made	1,581

Wraxhill Road Clinic

Total No. of children attending	106
Total No. of children attending for the 1st time ...	40
Total No. of attendances made	469

HOME HELP SERVICE

No. of cases who received help in 1972.

<u>Type of Case</u>						<u>Yeovil Borough</u>
Mental Illness	...	...	...	...	...	6
Maternity	...	...	...	...	...	4
Old Age and Infirmary	...	...	...	...	...	315
Chronic Illness	...	...	...	...	...	39
General Illness	...	...	...	...	...	5
Child Care	...	...	...	...	...	-
Post-operation	...	...	...	...	...	-
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total						371

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

This year has been the first complete year the department has operated with the revised department structure. Unfortunately half way through the year we lost the services of Mr. New, Rodent Operator and it was many weeks before Mr. F. Bevis joined the department. In spite of this, the department has functioned smoothly with regular visits to all types of premises having been maintained and Housing and Factory Surveys commenced.

For two weeks in April the department took part in "The Life of Yeovil" exhibition, preparing and manning two stands depicting the duties and work of the Public Health Department. From the interest shown in the stands by visitors to the exhibition, I consider the project to have been successful and a good public relations exercise.

HOUSING

There has been a slight decrease in the number of unfit houses that cannot be made fit, which have been dealt with during the year. This has been mainly due to the fact that, over the years, considerable progress has been made in dealing with unsatisfactory housing conditions, the emphasis has now changed to improving the existing housing stock. The Housing Act 1969 initially resulted in an increase in improvement grant applications which has meant more houses being made fit informally this year.

Progress has continued with the area housing improvement inspections designed to ascertain the amenities existing and the general state of repair of the properties. Following inspections, letters are sent to the owners informing them of, the lack of amenities, dampness and disrepair found and giving them information on the types of grants available to improve the house.

CAMBORNE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREA

It is with regret that I am unable to report satisfactory progress in the General Improvement Area. When the Area was first declared there was considerable interest shown by householders, several applications for grant were received and some people carried out their own improvements. Unfortunately, little progress is now being made and this, I believe, originates from the lack of initiative by this Council in preparing a scheme for area environmental improvements.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1972.

Unfit Houses

Demolished during the year.		25
Unfit houses closed.	Sections 16(4) 17(1)	11
	Section 18	1
Unfit houses made fit.	After informal action under Housing Acts.	42
	After formal action under Housing Acts.	7
	Houses which were remedied formally under Public Health Acts.	1
Houses in which defects were remedied informally under Public Health Acts etc.		202
Number of houses inspected under Part II of the Housing Act 1957.		123

Houses let in multiple occupation.

Total number of houses known to be in multiple occupation	21
Number of houses estimated to need attention under Housing Acts 1961 - 1964.	3
Number of houses in which formal action has been taken	2
Number of houses in which informal action has been taken	3

Housing and Public Health Acts.

Inspections and visits under Housing and Public Health Acts.	1544
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Rent Acts - Housing Act 1969.

Inspections of houses for good repair, bearing in mind the age, character and locality and fitness under:-	30
Section 45 Housing Act 1969 - Qualification Certificates.	3
Section 46 Housing Act 1969 - Certificates of Provisional Approval.	14

CARAVANS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Number of privately owned site licences operating as at:

31st December	a) individual	-	4
	b) multiple	-	1

Total number of caravans for which there are licences - 107

The site licence conditions at Rustywell Mobile Home Park and its extensions were reviewed during the year, which resulted in modifications to some existing conditions especially as regards "fire points", gave the Council additional control over ancillary structures and authorised uniformed conditions throughout the site. This site, when completed, will accommodate 102 caravans.

One new individual site licence has been issued during the year which concerned land situated at 10 and 11 Rustywell.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Food Hygiene.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the public are more discriminating with regard to the standards of both food and premises. This is borne out by the complaints which are occasionally received concerning such things as dirty cutlery, chipped cups and the lack of facilities for the washing of hands before partaking of a meal.

In order to encourage this increase in the general public's interest in food hygiene, the department participated in three exhibitions in which food hygiene was the theme or formed a principle theme. These exhibitions were held at St. Johns Schoolroom, Yeovil, a vacant shop in High Street (by the courtesy of Mr. Moffatt) and the Bath and West Show. Lectures were given by Members of the Staff throughout the year to various groups when food hygiene was an important subject or included as part of the general duties of the department.

Pursuing the recent policy of one public health inspector being in the main responsible for food hygiene has meant that, food hygiene inspections have been continuously carried out as an important duty of the department and has resulted in a more uniform inspection. Stress has been made during the course of inspections of the necessity to regularly check the temperature of refrigerated food displays and to see that foodstuffs are stored at the temperatures at which their keeping quality is best and that equipment is not overloaded. A circular was sent to all food premises setting out the recommended temperatures etc. at which various foods should be kept.

I feel sure that this action has reduced the number of notifications of refrigerator breakdowns during the year but unfortunately has not resulted in a significant decrease in the amount of food which has been condemned due to this condition.

Food Complaints

There has been a total of 30 complaints by members of the public involving foodstuffs. The majority involved home produced food with 11 concerning bread or flour confectionery. Whilst 6 of the complaints were of mouldy food not one complaint was received of mouldy sausages or meat pies - a situation which is a complete reversal of a few years ago. Perhaps this is due to a greater awareness by the retailers of correct storage conditions and efficient stock control.

One complaint which involved protracted investigation concerned bottles of pasteurised milk which contained visible sign of extraneous matter. The customer to whom the bottles were delivered complained to the delivery roundsman and then ultimately to this department. Investigation of the complaint revealed that milk sold in various parts of the country was similarly affected to a greater or lesser degree and was attributed to a combination of factors associated with modern farming practices. However, the attention of the dairy and the producers was drawn to the complaint and co-operation between the two factions together with advice from both Local Authority and Ministry Officials effected an improvement. I am glad to say that this improvement has been maintained and I believe that a scheme is to be introduced on a national basis to monitor supplies of milk for such extraneous matter.

<u>Unsound food surrendered or condemned.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
1. Meat at retail shops.		14	21
2. Cooked meat and meat products.		1	34
3. Canned meats.		2	9
4. Other canned foods.	4	6	62
5. Fish (fresh)		2	21
6. Fresh fruit and vegetables.		1	88
7. Frozen foods due to refrigeration breakdown.		11	7
8. Other foods.		7	87
	6	6	105

<u>Foreign matter and mould - complaints.</u>	Foreign matter	Mould
Milk.	1	-
Cheese.	-	1
Bread.	6	-
Canned Meat.	4	1
Meat Pies.	2	-
Fruit.	1	-
Jam.	1	-
Vegetables.	1	-
Flour Confectionery.	3	2
Other Foods.	5	2
	<u>24</u>	<u>6</u>

Number of prosecutions under Section 2 Food & Drugs Act 1955	4
Number of prosecutions under Section 8 Food & Drugs Act 1955	Nil.
Total amount of fines and costs imposed	£265.00.

Food Premises to which Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 apply.

No. of Premises.

Restaurants	26
Factories and school canteens	42
Public Houses and Hotels	52
Bakehouses	4
Food Factories	2
Wholesale food warehouses	5
Cooked Meat Shops (including Supermarkets)	8
Butchers	19
Fishmongers, Fish & Chip Shops & Take Away	14
Greengrocers	13
Grocers	50
Confectioners	15
Supermarket-type shops	8
Number of inspections carried out	263

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

	<u>Number</u>	
	<u>Prosecutions</u>	<u>Convictions</u>
1. Part II - General requirements	-	-
2. Part III - Requirements relating to food handlers.	-	-
3. Part IV - Requirements relating to food premises.	One	One
Total Fines and Costs.	£125.00	

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

No. of market stalls	15
Estimated No. of mobile shops	9
Estimated No. of mobile ice-cream retail vehicles.	28
Estimated No. of food delivery vehicles	60
Number of inspections	- 338

During the year one prosecution has been taken under these Regulations resulting in a fine and costs totalling £70.00

Food and Drugs Sampling

No. of samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	-	12
No. of samples of Cream submitted for Brucella Examination	-	9

Ice Cream

Samples of Ice Cream taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

<u>Results</u>	<u>Mobiles</u>				<u>Premises</u>			
	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>
<u>Grades</u>								
Soft Ice Cream	-	-	-	-	2	5	2	-
Other Ice Cream	-	-	-	-	13	7	1	-
Total number of samples								- 30

Milk Samples

Milk Samples taken by Somerset County Council.

	<u>Pasteurised</u>		<u>Sterilised.</u>		<u>U.H.T.</u>	
	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>
A. Bottled within the County.	146	2	2	-	5	-
B. Bottled outside the County but retailed in the Borough.	23	1	-	-	-	-

Section 16 - Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Applications received for registration of premises:

a) for the sale and storage of ice cream	5
b) for the preparation of preserved foods	1

Total number of premises registered at the end of the year.

a) for the sale and storage of ice cream	86
b) for the manufacture and retail	3
c) for manufacture only	1
d) for the preparation of preserved foods	21

PUBLIC HEALTH

Complaints.

A total of 627 complaints were received during the year, comprised of the following:-

Housing defects (including overcrowding)	72
Drainage and sanitary accommodation	95
Insect pests (including wasps)	76
Food complaints	44
Food examination	48
Food Hygiene	1
Effluvia and Dust	28
Pigeons	7
Noise	15
Atmospheric Pollution	18
Rats and Mice	148
Miscellaneous	75

There was a further increase in complaints received over last year being largely due to an increase in Food complaints and Rodent infestations. After last years dramatic increase in wasps complaints conditions returned to normal.

Following complaints two years running from the Larkhill area of invasions of houses by the "Strawberry Seed Beetle" it would seem that previous treatments have been successful as there was no recurrence of the nuisance this year.

Drains and Sewers.

Difficulties were again experienced during the year in maintaining the service of clearing drains and private sewers by the department as we were without the services of a Disinfector, who usually carries out this work, for approximately two months, and there was an increase in the number of lengths of sewer and private drains affected. In spite of this I am sure a satisfactory service was maintained.

Once again I would like to express my thanks to the Borough Surveyor for helping to maintain this service, especially so far as Section 24, Public Health Act 1936 is concerned.

Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 24 Public Sewers.

No. of lengths of sewer cleared	25
No. of houses involved	95

Public Health Act, 1936 - Sections 38 - 39 Private Sewers.

No. of lengths of sewer cleared	4
No. of houses involved	19

Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 39 Private Drains.

No. of drains cleared.	57
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In addition to the above there were 4 occasions when following up complaints obstructions were found in main public sewers.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Pests.

There were 119 complaints concerning rats and 29 concerning mice during the year.

Total No. of premises (including nearby properties) inspected following notification	312
No. infested by: Rats	190
No. infested by: Mice	14
No. of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	28
No. infested by: Rats	15
No. of visits made during the year	1,311

Routine treatment of the refuse tip and sewage works was carried out.

Summary of Sewer Treatments

Section of System treated.	No. of Manholes treated.	No. of Manholes showing take of bait Comp't. Part'l.		Poison used.	Baits.	Baiting Sequence.
West Hendford Area	6	-	-	Warfarin	Pinhead Meal	1-3-5
Westland Area	10	-	2	"	"	"
Hendford Area	10	-	-	"	"	"
Goldcroft Area	7	-	-	"	"	"
Preston Area	12	-	-	"	"	"
Rosebery Area	10	-	-	"	"	"
Milford Area	9	-	-	"	"	"
Larkhill Area	19	-	-	"	"	"
Total	83	-	2			

In addition to maintaining regular rodent eradication service throughout the year, the majority of the Town's sewerage system was treated with, I am pleased to say, only an odd small infestation found.

The Council now have six rodent contracts with firms requiring regular routine visits, two additional contracts being obtained during the year.

Pigeons.

Despite the seasonal use of traps the Town's pigeon population has remained static and attracting the same number of complaints as last year. Approved traps have been used throughout the year and a measure of success was achieved. Recent evidence has come to hand that those types of pigeons may be carriers of avian tuberculosis. A disease which is, so far, rare in man but on the increase. This form of tuberculosis is highly resistant to most anti biotic treatments.

If by the use of traps we are not able to contain the pigeon population, other ways of control will have to be considered probably by employing a specialised firm.

DISINFESTATIONS.

Complaints received of infestations other than wasps.	42
Premises dealt with for wasps.	34

There was a marked decrease in the number of wasp complaints compared with a bumper year last year.

WATER SUPPLY -- Samples of treated water after going into supply

<u>Chemical</u>		<u>Bacteriological</u>	
<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>	<u>Satis.</u>	<u>Unsatis.</u>
43	2	286	-

These figures include samples taken by the Wessex Water Board.

CLEAN AIR ACTS, 1956 - 1968.

There were 19 complaints of atmospheric pollution during the year of which 9 were concerning smoke from garden bonfires. This is a considerable increase from last year and more than accounts for the overall increase in smoke complaints.

I am pleased to report that there were only three complaints during the year due to smoke emissions from commercial or industrial premises. In two cases it was the misuse of incinerators which gave rise to "smutting" which had resulted from the commissioning of a new boiler.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1968 - SECTION 6.

Chimney Heights.

There were three applications received during the year for approval of chimney heights, in one case alterations were required.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

Last year I stated that contrary to information gathered nationally noise complaints were increasing at a rate of 10% per year; the number of complaints in Yeovil had actually decreased. It would seem that I wrote out of turn because with a total of 15 complaints this year, there has been an increase of 25%. It is pleasing to report that again only one complaint of noise from contractors using road drills incorporating suppressors was received.

Planning Applications.

During the year a more efficient sound level meter was purchased which gave the staff a chance to make further progress in their efforts to prevent possible noise nuisance. Investigations have been made when planning applications for industrial "use" have been received either for new factories or factory extensions. In some cases it has been necessary to recommend noise control conditions to be included in the planning consent.

Advice has also been given as to the design and structure of factory premises to meet the planning condition and to confine the noise generated within the factory within its curtilage.

Section 1.

Total number of complaints received		-					15
		Industrial Premises	Commercial Premises	Roadworks Construction Demolition	Domestic Premises	Others	Total
1. Complaints received	1	9	1	4	-		15
2. Cases complained of	1	8	1	4	-		14
3. Cases investigated	1	8	1	4	-		14
4. Nuisances confirmed	1	4	1	1	-		7
5. Nuisances remedied informally	1	3	1	1	-		6
6. Abatement notices served	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations

The number of new registrations received during the year was 63, this is the highest figure since the first year of the Act. With the Act having now been on the statute book for some years, we are finding that few firms register on occupying new premises, only after visits by the inspector are the firms concerned registering.

It has again been the department's aim to carry out a general inspection of every shop and office during the year. This year 405 premises received general inspections and 666 visits were made.

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of Premises.	No. of premises registered during year.	No. of Registered premises at end of year.	No. of registered premises receiving general inspections during the year.
Offices	26	179	134
Retail shops	30	211	211
Catering Establishments open to public, canteens.	2	27	25
Wholesale shops			
Warehouses	5	30	30
Fuel storage depots	0	5	5
Total	63	452	405
Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises under the Act.			666

Analysis of Contraventions.

Section.	Number of Contraventions found.
4. Cleanliness	11
5. Overcrowding	3
6. Temperature	63
7. Ventilation	4
8. Lighting	8
9. Sanitary Conveniences.	19
10. Washing Facilities.	24
11. Supply of drinking water.	-
12. Clothing Accommodation.	3
13. Seating Facilities.	1
14. Seats. Sedentary Workers.	-
15. Eating Facilities.	1
16. Floors, Passages and Stairs.	36
17. Fencing exposed parts of machinery.	3
18. Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery.	-
19. Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery.	-
20. Hoists and Lifts.	3
23. Prohibition of heavy work.	-
24. First Aid.	72
Other Matters.	93
TOTAL	314

Reported Accidents

Workplace.	Nö. Fatal.	Reported Non Fatal.	Investigated.	Prosecution.	Informal Advice.
Offices.	-	1	1	-	1
Retail shops.	-	8	8	-	1
Wholesale shops Warehouses.	-	1	1	-	1
Catering Establishments open to public.	-	1	1	-	1
Fuel Storage Depots.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	11	11	-	4

Analysis of reported accidents

	Offices.	Retail Shops.	Wholesale Warehouses.	Catering Estab'ts.	Fuel Storage Depots.
Machinery	-	-	-	-	-
Falls of persons	1	3	1	-	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	-	-	-	-
Handling goods	-	4	-	1	-
Struck by falling objects	-	1	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	8	1	1	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

1. Inspections.

Premises.	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority.	168	38	10	-
(111) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	170	38	10	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	No. of cases in which defects were found.		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
			To H.M. Insp'r.	By H.M. Insp'r.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	2	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	4	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	19	3	-	2	-

Outworkers

Nature of work.	Number of workers in August List required by Section 133(1)(c).	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	Number of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists.	Number of instances of work in some premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecu- tions.
Wearing apparel	133	-	-	-	-	-

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal support.

I am,

Your obedient servant.

D. F. ANTHONY.

